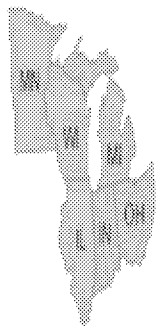


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Great Lakes

# Region 5 Intelligence Briefing



November 9, 2021

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## Today's Table of Contents

### Illinois

- Editorial: Lead Pipe Replacement A Priority For Infrastructure Spending In Chicago. (Chicago Sun-Times)

### Indiana

- EPA Grants Funds Environmental Study Of Auto Salvage, City Property In Greenfield. (Greenfield Daily Reporter)
- Changes At Metalworking Lubricants Unlikely To Solve Odor Problem. (Indianapolis Star)

### Michigan

- Documents Reveal "Testy" Exchanges Over Benton Harbor Water Crisis. (AP)
- Last Flat Rock Residents Okayed To Go Home. (Southgate News Herald)

## Minnesota

- Forever Chemicals Add To Minnesota Impaired Waters List. (Duluth News Tribune)

## Ohio

- Regan Talks About Infrastructure Package. (WDTN-TV Dayton)

## Wisconsin

- RFA “Encouraged” By Rejection Of Refinery Exemption. (WMSN-TV Madison)
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## Illinois

### **Editorial: Lead Pipe Replacement A Priority For Infrastructure Spending In Chicago.**

In an editorial, the *Chicago Sun-Times* (11/8) says, “Swapping out toxic lead water lines was a [Lori] Lightfoot campaign promise when she ran for mayor in 2019.” So far, “the city has replaced about 10 lines.” There are “up to 400,000” in the city. When “Chicago gets its share of Illinois’ expected \$17 billion from the newly passed federal infrastructure bill,” city and state leaders “must make sure it’s enough to get the ball rolling faster on this important task.”

[Back to top ▲](#)

## Indiana

### **EPA Grants Funds Environmental Study Of Auto Salvage, City Property In Greenfield.**

The *Greenfield (IN) Daily Reporter* (11/9) reports Greenfield has received a \$300,000 grant from the EPA, “which aims to stimulate redevelopment in underused parts of the city.” The grant is being used to search for environmental contaminants at Jack & Sons Auto Salvage “and a city-owned property in an effort to better secure their futures.” The funds “cannot be used for cleanups, but can be used for remediation planning.”

### **Changes At Metalworking Lubricants Unlikely To Solve Odor Problem.**

The *Indianapolis Star* (11/8, Bowman) reports Metalworking Lubricants Co., “the company believed to be responsible for what many Indianapolis residents know as the ‘Southside stench,’” is “proposing changes” that may “help reduce some pollution,” but “the odors are likely to linger.” The Indiana

Department of Environmental Management, EPA, and Department of Justice “are currently negotiating a settlement with Pontiac, MI-based Metalworking Lubricants to address” the “more than six” permit violations the business has had in the past ten years. None of Metalworking Lubricants “past violations or future permit requirements deal with the company’s odor issues...because it’s unclear who has the authority to regulate odor, if anyone.”

[Back to top ▲](#)

## Michigan

### Documents Reveal “Testy” Exchanges Over Benton Harbor Water Crisis.

The **AP** (11/8, Flesher, Eggert) reports the 11,000-page “trove of communications and documents sought by legislators investigating” the state of Michigan’s handling of the Benton Harbor reveal “testy exchanges” between then-Benton Harbor Municipal Superintendent Mike O’Malley and state regulators. O’Malley told one state official in an email, “I have no time for this.” When “state water treatment specialist Ernie Sarkipato offered help, O’Malley replied: ‘I have already asked you for help and been denied.’” The state “revoked O’Malley’s certification to operate the city water plant in November 2020 for numerous reasons.”

**Moody On The Market (MI)** (11/1) reports on the development of the Benton Harbor water crisis from 2010, “when then-Gov. Jennifer Granholm appointed an emergency financial manager, who would go on to halve the city’s workforce by 2014,” leaving the water plant with a “skeleton staff.” It also details previous steps taken to improve the city’s water quality, such as “trial-and-error” corrosion control.

**WOOD-TV** Grand Rapids, MI (11/8, Kolker) reports “crews yanked out the first section of lead service line early Monday afternoon” as they begin replacing pipes in Benton Harbor. An EPA grant of \$5.6 million is funding the removal of “the first 100 suspected lead service lines by April.” Workers broke a water main accessing the service pipe, which was not located where they expected.

**WXMI-TV** (11/8) also reports on the beginning of pipe replacement. Among others reporting are **WDIV-TV** (11/8), **NBC’s Today** (11/8), **WMYD-TV** (11/8), **WTVG-TV** (11/8), **WEYI-TV** (11/8), **WJRT-TV** (11/8), **WOOD-TV** (11/8), and **WLAJ-TV** (11/8).

### Last Flat Rock Residents Okayed To Go Home.

The **Southgate (MI) News Herald** (11/8, Kasuba) reports the last of the Flat Rock residents “who evacuated their property due to a gasoline leak in late August” have been given the green light to return to their homes, after “health officials cleared one remaining home that had been evacuated” last week. A total of 970 homes had been affected by the leak that originated at a Ford plant.

The **Detroit News** (11/8, Ramirez) and **WJBK-TV** (11/8) also report.

[Back to top ▲](#)

# Minnesota

## Forever Chemicals Add To Minnesota Impaired Waters List.

The **Duluth (MN) News Tribune** (11/8, Myers) reports, "Minnesota regulators on Monday said they have added another 305 streams and lakes to the state's list of officially polluted waterways, bringing the total to 2,904, including more waterways tainted by the PFAS family of forever chemicals." For the first time, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency "has included greater Minnesota waterways for PFAS and other forever chemicals." The agency "added Wild Rice Lake and Fish Lake just north of Duluth for PFAS contamination as well as Winona Lake in Alexandria and the St. Croix River from the Taylors Falls Dam through Lake St. Croix." The Clean Water Act "requires the state to, every two years, update the list of waters that fail to meet basic water quality standards." The **AP** (11/8, Ibrahim), **Minnesota Public Radio** (11/8, Marohn), **Bluestem Prairie (MN)** (11/8, Sorensen), **Minneapolis Star Tribune** (11/8, Stanley), **Bring Me The News (MN)** (11/8, Turtinen), **Minnetonka (MN) Patch** (11/8, Bornhoft), and **KSTP-TV Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN** (11/8) also report.

[Back to top ▲](#)

# Ohio

## Regan Talks About Infrastructure Package.

**WDTN-TV** (11/8) reports President Biden is expected to sign the \$1 trillion infrastructure package into law. EPA Administrator Michael Regan said, "These are historic step to put this country on the right track that dedicated to clean energy, that are dedicated to clean energy, to our nation's grid, to our nation's infrastructure."

[Back to top ▲](#)

# Wisconsin

## RFA "Encouraged" By Rejection Of Refinery Exemption.

**WMSN-TV** (11/8) reports via Ag Day that the Renewable Fuels Association "says it's greatly encouraged by the EPA rejecting one small refinery exemption last week." It is "the first SRE to be denied by the EPA under the Biden Administration." There are 65 exemptions pending.

[Back to top ▲](#)

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